

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XJ
SUBJECT: EC-9 CONSULTATIONS ON AFRICA

REF: STATE 166405

1. IN THE COURSE OF BRIEFING US JULY 9 ON LAST WEEK'S EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSIONS, DIR GEN POLITICAL AFFAIRS RUTTEN MADE STRONG PLEA FOR FULL CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND EC-9 ON AFRICAN ISSUES. ALTHOUGH HE EMPHASIZED AFRICAN ISSUES, HE ALSO REFERRED MORE BROADLY TO A CERTAIN "CYNICAL COMMENTS" IN THE EC-9 THAT US-EC-9 CONSULTATIONS WERE ONE-SIDED, WITH US GETTING MORE THAN IT GAVE. RUTTEN AGAIN REFERRED TO KISSINGER-VORSTER MEETING AND WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A PAUCITY OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EC-9, EVEN TAKING ACCOUNT OF SEPARATE BRIEFINGS US APPARENTLY GAVE UK, FRANCE AND FRG. NOTING HISTORIC CONNECTION ON THE PART OF EC COUNTRIES WITH AFRICA AND CURRENT POLITICAL INTEREST IN THE AREA, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT AMERICAN OBJECTIVES ON THAT CONTINENT WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY CLOSE CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH EUROPEANS AND REMARKED HE UNDERSTOOD AMERICAN POLICY TO BE TO THIS EFFECT.

2. NO DOUBT RUTTEN--AND OTHER EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS-- HAVE HAD THEIR INTEREST WHETTED BY PRESS SPECULATION, SUCH AS GWERTZMAN ARTICLE IN JULY 5 "INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE" AND OTHER LEADING JOURNALS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US MAY HAVE OFFERED SOME DEAL TO SOUTH AFRICANS. ASSURANCES REFTEL NOT-
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WITHSTANDING, WE SENSE A CONTINUING UNEASINESS, PARTICULARLY

IN THE LIGHT OF REPORT TODAY THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE
WILL BE PRESENTING A "PLAN" TO SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES. IN
FACT, RUTTEN REFERRED TO SCHAUFLE TRIP AND SAID EUROPEANS WOULD
NOT UNDERSTAND US PRESENTATION TO AFRICAN STATES PRIOR TO
BRIEFING EUROPEANS. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE, RUTTEN SAID
COLDLY, IF EUROPEANS HAD TO END UP GETTING THEIR INFO FROM
AFRICAN SOURCES. THE POINT RUTTEN IS SEEKING TO MAKE IS THAT
THE EC-9 COUNTRIES ARE INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN
AFFAIRS AND BELIEVE THAT WESTERN POLICIES, IF THEY ARE TO
HAVE ANY EFFECT, SHOULD REFLECT FULL AND FRANK CONSULTATION
AND COORDINATION.

3. RUTTEN CONCLUDED THAT HE ASSUMED US CONTINUED TO SUPPORT
CAUSE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, BUT AT TIMES IT SEEMED TO DUTCH
THAT US PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH MATTERS OF DIRECT INTEREST
TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY VITIATED THIS OBJECTIVE. HE ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT DUTCH RECOGNIZED NECESSITY FOR RESORT TO BILATERAL
CHANNELS BUT WISHED US WOULD TAKE GREATER ACCOUNT OF SOMEWHAT
ADVERSE IMPACT THIS HAD ON EC-9.

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